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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled.)

10. (Original) A method of forming a MOS transistor on a semiconductor material of a first conductivity type, the method comprising the steps of:

 forming a layer of material of the first conductivity type on the semiconductor material, the layer of material having silicon, germanium, and carbon;

 forming an insulation layer over the layer of material;

 forming a layer of conductive material on the insulation layer;

 etching the layer of conductive material to form a gate; and

 forming spaced-apart source and drain regions of a second conductivity type in the layer of material on opposite sides of the gate.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the forming a layer of material step includes the step of growing the layer of material on the semiconductor material.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the forming a layer of material step includes blanket depositing a layer of silicon germanium carbon over the semiconductor material.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein
 an isolation region adjoins the semiconductor material, the isolation region
 having a top surface; and

 the forming a layer of material step includes the step of selectively epitaxially
 growing the layer of material on the semiconductor material, the layer of material
 having a top surface that lies below the top surface of the isolation region.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the semiconductor material has a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with the top surface of the isolation region.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the forming a layer of material step includes the steps of:

removing a portion of the semiconductor material to expose an etched surface of the semiconductor material; and

growing the layer of material on the etched surface of the semiconductor material.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the forming a layer of material step includes the steps of:

removing a portion of the semiconductor material to expose an etched surface of the semiconductor material; and

blanket depositing a layer of silicon germanium carbon over the etched surface of the semiconductor material.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the forming a layer of material step includes the steps of:

removing a portion of the semiconductor material to expose an etched surface of the semiconductor material, the etched surface of the semiconductor material lying below the top surface of the isolation region; and

epitaxially growing the layer of material on the etched surface of the semiconductor material.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 and further comprising the step of forming a layer of cap silicon on the layer of material prior to the formation of the insulation layer.

PATENT

19. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of material has a substantially uniform concentration of carbon atoms.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of material has a non-uniform concentration of carbon atoms, and includes a surface region of a heavy concentration of carbon.